Co-operation with China in power sector

†3050. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to cooperate with China instead of competing with it in the field of power; and

(b) if so, the details of the initiative taken so far/to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) The Minister of Power visited China in September, 2001. Following areas have been identified for cooperation with China in Power Sector:

(i) Management of transmission and distribution network to reduce the T&D losses and to improve the quality of power.

(ii) Sharing each others knowledge in Grid Management.

(iii) Sharing their expertise in project management to reduce time over-run.

Power Grid Corporation of India has signed a MoU with State Grid Corporation of China on 9th July 2003 for experience sharing in various areas of transmission of electricity.

Rural Electrification in Border villages

†3051. SHRIMATI KAMLAMANHAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of scheme prepared by Government for the implementation of rural electrification on priority basis;

(b) whether the rural electrification programme is being implemented at very low pace in far-off zones in a number of States particularly in bordering villages in each district/Tehsil;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to expedite the programme in these bordering villages; and

(d) the minimum norms prescribed for conferring electrification Status to bordering villages?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) A new scheme "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" for Rural Electricity Infrastructure and household Electrification has been launched for the attainment of the National Common Minimum Programme of completing Rural Household Electrification in five years. Under this scheme 90% Capital Subsidy would be provided for:

(i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with one 33/11 KV (or 66/11 KV) substation in every block appropriately linked to the State Transmission System.

(ii) Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) for electrification of all unelectrified villages/habitations with distribution transformers) in every village/habitation.

(iii) Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply System for Villages/Habitations where grid supply is not cost effective and where Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources would not be providing electricity through their programme(s).

(iv) Electrification of all un-electrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in the country free of charge.

The scheme covers the entire country and funds would be provided for electrification of un-electrified villages and un-electrified habitations including bordering villages in districts/Tehsils.

(d) As per new definition of village electrification

"A village would be declared as electrified if

(i) Basic infrastructure such as Distribution Transformer and Distribution lines are provided in the inhabited locality as well as the Dalit Basti/hamlet where it exists. (For electrification through Non-Conventional Energy Sources a Distribution Transformer may not be necessary).

(ii) Electricity is provided to public places like Schools, Panchayat Office, Health Centres, Dispensaries, Community Centres etc. and

(iii) The number of households electrified should be at least 10% of the total number of households in the village."